Mountain Weather Forecast

Southwest Highlands

Including Ben Nevis, Glen Coe and the rest of Lochaber, Argyll including the Isles, Loch Lomond, Trossachs and Arran

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 30 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 31 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Friday 29 Dec 2023 at 17:52 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for Saturday and for less severe conditions on Sunday, but lower for northern extent of showers on Sunday and Monday. Low for broader weather from Tuesday.

Headline for Saturday 30 Dec 2023: Persistent snow and gales spreading northeast.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Blizzards
High Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
Medium Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Cloudy	Light snow	Heavy snow	Sleet	Sleet	Heavy snow
Precipitation probability							
<05%	<05%	<05%	40%	80%	80%	90%	80%

Forecast for Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Weather: Dry but cold with some clear spells through the early hours, high cloud increases towards dawn. Cloud thickening and lowering through the morning with persistent snow and severe summit gales spreading northeast. Snow heavy at times, but turning to rain below 900-1000m during the afternoon. Turning back to snow down to 700-800m in the evening before clears west by midnight.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 70% early morning. 20% in the afternoon.

Low Cloud and visibility: Very good visibility in the morning with the main cloud base well above the summits. Cloud lowering to 400m as snow arrives, occasionally to lower slopes. Near zero visibility in blizzards on the hills.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Forecast for Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	18/21 N	11/14 NE	16/19 E	40/49 E	63/79 SE	58/74 SE	38/49 SE	25/31 SE	24/30 SE
900	9/12 N	9/11 NE	17/21 E	32/41 SE	46/60 SE	41/56 SE	27/38 SE	17/22 SE	17/22 SE
600	11/13 SE	7/9 NE	17/21 E	29/36 E	58/73 SE	54/69 SE	34/44 SE	18/23 SE	17/22 SE
300	4/5 E	4/5 E	5/7 NW	12/19 E	37/57 SE	33/52 SE	20/33 SE	11/18 SE	9/15 E
Glen	3/5 NW	1/3 NE	4/12 NE	11/24 NE	22/44 E	26/50 SE	16/32 SE	6/13 E	7/13 NE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	-6/-14	-6/-12	-5/-12	-6/-16	-7/-21	-6/-18	-4/-14	-3/-12	-4/-12
900	-4/-9	-5/-10	-5/-12	-5/-15	-4/-15	-4/-14	-2/-11	-2/-8	-2/-8
600	-1/-6	-2/-6	-0/-6	0/-7	1/-8	1/-8	2/-6	2/-3	2/-3
300	0/-2	0/-2	-0/-3	0/-4	1/-7	1/-7	2/-4	3/-1	3/-1
Glen	-0/-2	-2/-3	-1/-3	1/-3	3/-3	3/-4	4/-1	4/1	4/1
Freezing Level*	200m	100m	00m	100m	200m	300m	600m	900m	700m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View
Extremely challenging conditions on the hills with near zero visibility, heavy snow and severe summit gales making any progress very difficult, especially at higher levels.

Forecast for Sunday 31 Dec 2023
Weather: Mostly cloudy with frequent showers, these falling as snow above 700m in the early hours and morning. Showers largely confined to western and southern hills in the afternoon and evening, drier with clear spells over Lochaber.

Maximum wind: Generally east or southeast 20-25 gusting 30 mph, easing to east 15-20 mph in the afternoon and 10 mph in the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20-30%

Low Cloud and visibility: Visibility often poor in cloud, bases around 700m, occasionally lower in showers. Increasing chance of good visibility and clearer skies over Lochaber towards midnight.

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 2 Celsius.
At 800m: Zero Celsius.
Freezing level: 800-900m.

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